

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-89 are pending in this case. Applicants propose amending claims 21, 44, 45, 57, 58, 65, and 81 to clarify the claimed subject matter. Applicants propose deleting claim 43.

Claims 21 through 89 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,317,726 (O'Shaughnessy II) in view of U.S. Patent 6,012,042 (Black) and U.S. Patent 5,784,696 (Melnikoff). Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in light of the above-listed amendments and the below-recited remarks.

Initialed PTO FORM-1449

In a communication mailed October 20, 2000, Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO FORM-1449 (copy enclosed). An Examiner-initialed copy of the FORM-1449 has not been received. Applicants' undersigned attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the FORM 1449 indicating the Examiner has considered the references in connection with this application.

The Section 103 Rejections

The Disclosed Invention

The present application discloses "a method of filtering and sorting online financial data." (Application, Field of the Invention). More specifically, the claimed invention relates to "an interactive method . . . for timely processing data to meet the criteria of individual clients. This criteria can be easily changed to allow these clients the ability to request many

variations of the data based on their individual needs.” (Application, Summary of the Invention).

Claim 21, which comprises limitations analogous to those in the other independent claims, is directed to a “method of identifying financial instruments meeting user-defined investment criteria.” The claimed method comprises the following steps:

- retrieving financial instrument data from at least one data source;
- processing the financial instrument data to identify values for a plurality of searchable parameters for particular financial instruments in said financial instrument data;
- receiving user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;**
- comparing the user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments;**
- identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria;**
- transmitting to the user for display data identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria;**
- receiving modified user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;**
- comparing the modified user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments;**
- identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the modified user-defined search criteria; and**
- transmitting to the user for display data identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the modified user-defined search criteria.**

In order for a set of references to render claim 21 obvious, the references must teach the combination of all of the claimed elements, including those emphasized. Applicants’ undersigned attorney respectfully submits that the cited references do not even teach all of the

claimed elements individually and certainly do not suggest the claimed combination. Indeed, none of the cited references suggest an interactive system for receiving iterative user-defined search criteria.

The Cited References Do Not Render the Claimed Invention Obvious

The Examiner cites U.S. Patent 6,317,726 (O'Shaughnessy II) as prior art. As the Examiner correctly points out, O'Shaughnessy II is a continuation-in-part of prior application 08/995,296 filed on December 20, 1997, which has since issued as U.S. Patent 5,978,778 (O'Shaughnessy I). Thus, the subject matter that existed in the prior O'Shaughnessy application, i.e. O'Shaughnessy I, is prior art to the present application. However, the new matter that was added, i.e. the "in-part" portion of the O'Shaughnessy II, has a filing date of July 27, 1999. Importantly, the present application has an effective filing date of May 29, 1998 and claims priority back to provisional patent application 60/055,403 filed August 8, 1997. Accordingly, the new matter added to O'Shaughnessy II upon its filing (wherein the new matter includes at least items 1-12 and 1-13 of Fig. 1; items 2-10 through 2-15 of Fig. 2; and Figures 3 through 17 and associated text) is not prior art to the present application. Rather, the only matter of O'Shaughnessy II that is prior art to the present application, is that matter that existed in O'Shaughnessy I.

Furthermore, U.S. Patent 5,978,778 (O'Shaughnessy I), from which O'Shaughnessy II is a continuation-in-part, does not teach the elements of the claimed invention. O'Shaughnessy I teaches a method for selecting a portfolio of stocks. Specifically, O'Shaughnessy I teaches screening stocks against a **predetermined, i.e. not user-defined**, set of criteria to arrive at an alleged optimal portfolio of stocks. As illustrated in Figures 1

and 2 of O'Shaughnessy I, the stocks are screened sequentially against the predetermined set of criteria, with the stocks not meeting any one criteria being removed from further evaluation. In contrast to O'Shaughnessy I, Applicants' claim 21 recites the following: "receiving user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;" "comparing the user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments;" "identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria;" "transmitting to the user for display data identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria;" "receiving modified user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;" "comparing the modified user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments;" "identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the modified user-defined search criteria;" and "transmitting to the user for display data identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the modified user-defined search criteria." O'Shaughnessy I entirely fails to teach these claimed elements or to even suggest the user-interactive searching provided for by the claimed systems and methods. Indeed, by teaching a system employing a predetermined set of filtering criteria, O'Shaughnessy I actually teaches away from accepting user-defined criteria, comparing these to values for searchable parameters, receiving modified user-defined criteria, and comparing these to values for searchable parameters. In a system such as taught by O'Shaughnessy I, a user may not even know what the selection criteria employed by the system are.

The Examiner admits that O'Shaughnessy does not teach receiving user-defined search criteria for the searchable parameters, but alleges that Black teaches "user defined and selected analysis techniques." (Office Action, p. 3). Applicants' undersigned attorney respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the Black reference. Black is directed to a security analysis system which has the purported advance of combing technical data and fundamental data. Black teaches "converting both technical and fundamental data about a security into a unified format for analysis" (Summary of the Invention). The converted data is processed "in accordance with a set of rules and the results are forwarded to a display for viewing" (Summary of the Invention). The Examiner alleges that Black teaches "accepting user defined search criteria for the searchable parameters" at Col. 10, ll. 57-67 and Col 11, ll. 8-11 (Office Action, p. 3). The portion of the reference to which the Examiner cites indicates

"an analyst or user of a computer system incorporating the subject matter of the present invention is preferably able to choose from a variety of technical and fundamental analysis techniques and methodologies. Accordingly, the particular user, who may interpret the results of a technical or fundamental analysis differently, is preferably able to adapt the security analysis system of the present invention to their own tastes or risk preferences. The technical and fundamental data are therefore preferably weighed, and a user can customize their analysis."

Black, Col. 10, ll. 57-67. "Adapting" the security analysis system and "customizing" analysis, as taught by Black, appears to be accomplished by "choos[ing] from a variety of technical and fundamental analysis techniques and methodologies." Id. Choosing from a variety of technical and analysis techniques is not the same as user-defined search criteria. Black simply does not teach or even suggest the following: "receiving user-defined search criteria for searchable parameters;" "comparing the user-defined search criteria with the

values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments;” “identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria;” “transmitting to the user for display data identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria;” “receiving modified user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;” “comparing the modified user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments;” “identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the modified user-defined search criteria;” and “transmitting to the user for display data identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the modified user-defined search criteria.” In fact, Black specifies that the “analytical rules [for processing converted technical and fundamental data] may be found in rules storage device 28 and retrieved by engine 20 via line 30.” (Black, Col. 4, ll. 48-52.). Thus, Black, like O’Shaughnessy I teaches fixed analytical rules for processing data that are predefined, are stored in a storage device, and retrieved when necessary. In contradistinction, the claims require receiving user-defined search criteria for the searchable parameters and receiving modified user-defined search criteria. Using the claimed systems and methods, a person can repeatedly modify his or her search criteria based upon observed results. Unlike the fixed analysis system described by Black which use stored rules, searches employing the claimed methods may be variable and interactive.

Furthermore, even if Black taught the limitations suggested by the Examiner, there is no motivation to combine this teaching of Black with O’Shaughnessy. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the

references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. MPEP § 2143. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. MPEP § 2143 citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Even if, as alleged, Black taught the claimed limitations there is no suggestion in Black that these limitations should or could be used in another system, and more particularly one such as O'Shaughnessy. Indeed, there is no teaching by Black that the disclosed system, and in particular specific aspects of the disclosed system, are suitable and useful in other systems such as one disclosed by O'Shaughnessy. The section of the Black reference to which the Examiner cites as providing support for motivation to combine indicates it was an *object of Black's disclosed invention* to provide an improved system (Black, Col. 2, ll. 60-67). Black simply does not teach that the disclosed system or particular components of the disclosed system are suitable for use in other systems. One skilled in the art simply would not combine O'Shaughnessy and Black to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully requests that if the Examiner maintains the rejection, he point to the specific location(s) in the Black reference that allegedly provide the motivation to combine the reference and the particular teachings relied upon for the rejection with the O'Shaughnessy reference.

The Examiner alleges Melnikoff teaches "searching the values identified from the set of searchable parameters for values matching the user-defined search criteria" and "identifying a set of financial instruments corresponding to values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria." (Office Action, p. 3.) Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully disagrees. Melnikoff is directed to methods for

evaluating portfolios based on investment risk. According to Melnikoff, an asset, or a set of assets and their relative proportions, are selected from a library of assets to form a tentative investment portfolio. (Melnikoff, Col. 6, ll. 15-17). The average relative performance of the portfolio is computed. (Melnikoff, Col. 6, ln. 16.) The performance of the tentative portfolio is compared to risk criteria derived from investor preference data. If the criteria are satisfied, the tentative portfolio is designated as the investment portfolio. If not, a new tentative portfolio is selected and the processing sequence is repeated in an iterative manner until the criteria derived from the investor preference data are satisfied. (Melnikoff, Col. 4, ll. 32-29.) Thus, Melnikoff teaches a risk analysis/portfolio allocation system that employs an automated iterative loop for testing potential portfolio asset allocations against a desired investment risk to arrive at a portfolio. The desired investment risk is determined from interviews with the user. This is in contradistinction to the claimed systems and methods which are directed *to identifying financial instruments, and not portfolios*. Furthermore, Melnikoff simply does not teach “processing the financial instrument data to identify values for a plurality of searchable parameters for particular financial instruments in said financial instrument data,” “receiving user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters,” “identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria;” “transmitting to the user for display data identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria;” “receiving modified user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters;” “comparing the modified user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments;” “identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the

searchable parameters matching the modified user-defined search criteria;” and “transmitting to the user for display data identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the modified user-defined search criteria.” Indeed, because Melnikoff does not even mention “processing the financial instrument data to identify values for a plurality of searchable parameters for particular financial instruments in said financial instrument data,” and “receiving user-defined search criteria for said searchable parameters,” Melnikoff cannot possibly teach “comparing the user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments” and “identifying at least one of the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria.”

Furthermore, even if Melnikoff taught the limitations suggested by the Examiner, there is no motivation to combine these teachings of Melnikoff with O’Shaughnessy and Black. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. MPEP § 2143. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant’s disclosure. MPEP § 2143 citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The Examiner alleges “The motivation to combine is to teach a method for selection of groupings of securities based on risk definition and measurement as enunciated by Melnikoff.” (Office Action, Page 3.) Even if, as alleged, Melnikoff taught the claimed limitations, which it does not, there is no suggestion in Melnikoff that these limitations should or could be used in another system, and more particularly the systems

disclosed in O'Shaughnessy and Black. The section of the Melnikoff reference to which the Examiner cites as providing support for the motivation to combine indicates it was an object of Melnikoff's invention to provide methods and apparatus that are understandable and assist in the selection of a portfolio of mutual funds (Melnikoff, Col. 5, ll. 25-37 and Col. 5, ln. 63 – Col. 6, ln. 3). Melnikoff simply does not teach that the disclosed system and the particular components relied upon for the rejection are suitable for use in *other systems*. One skilled in the art simply would not combine O'Shaughnessy, Black, and Melnikoff to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully requests that if the Examiner maintains his rejection, he point to the specific location(s) in the Melnikoff reference that allegedly provide the motivation to combine the reference, and in particular the elements alleged to be taught by Melnikoff, with the O'Shaughnessy and Black references.

Thus, the Examiner admits that O'Shaughnessy does not teach receiving user-defined search criteria for searchable parameters, comparing the user-defined search criteria with the values identified for the searchable parameters for the particular financial instruments, and identifying the financial instruments having values for the searchable parameters matching the user-defined search criteria. O'Shaughnessy likewise does not teach or even suggest the added claim limitations. Furthermore, a detailed reading and understanding of Black and Melnikoff shows that neither teaches nor even suggests these individual claim elements, and most certainly do not suggest their combination. Accordingly, Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully submits that all claims patentably define over the prior art references and requests withdrawal of the prior art rejections.

Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 22-44, 46-64, 59-64, 66-80, and 82-89 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). However, the Examiner has not illustrated where in the cited references the claimed limitations are taught. In truth, the dependent claims are patentable over the cited references. For example, with respect to claim 29, neither O'Shaughnessy, Black, nor Melnikoff teach "confirming that a user is authorized to request a search of the searchable parameters" as required by claim 29. Similarly, with respect to claim 27, none of the references teach or suggest "wherein calculating data values for the searchable parameters from the financial instrument data comprises the step of calculating values for at least one of the following search parameters: Black-Scholes value, percent if called, percent if not called, in the money, out of the money, volatility, earnings change, and spread between called and not called." The Examiner has failed to demonstrate where in the cited references these and almost all of the other limitations from the dependent claims are taught. Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully requests that if the Examiner maintains the rejections of the dependent claims, he point out **for each dependent claim** where in the cited references the claim limitations are taught.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-42 and 44-89 patentably define over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the present Office Action and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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